

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adapter for connecting a vacuum source to a breast shield with tubing comprising:

5 a housing attachable to the vacuum source including an internal chamber in communication with the vacuum source;

one or more female coupling component, each of said one or more female coupling component defined by an interior sidewall surface of said housing, said interior sidewall surface including an upper portion with a first sidewall diameter and a lower portion with a second sidewall diameter, and a rim portion between said upper portion and said lower portion connecting said upper portion and said lower portion, said second sidewall diameter being less than said first sidewall diameter, said lower portion including one or more ports formed therein allowing communication of said one or more female coupling component with said internal chamber, and one or more channels formed therein communicating with an opening in said rim portion;

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one or more male coupling component, each of said one or more male coupling component including a first end, a second end, and a passageway extending between said first end and said second end, said first end being sized and shaped to be attached to the tubing, said second end being sized and shaped to be received in one of said one or more female coupling component and having a first end diameter, each of said one or more male coupling component further including a sealing portion between said first end and said second end, said sealing portion having a sealing surface formed about a periphery thereof, said sealing portion having a second end diameter, said second end diameter being greater than said first end diameter, said sealing portion being sized and shaped to be received in said upper portion of said female coupling component such that said connector sealing surface is in a substantially airtight engagement with said interior sidewall surface; and

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a stopper, said stopper being sized and shaped to sealably engage said upper portion of either of said one or more female coupling component, said stopper

including an orifice formed therethrough such that when said stopper is engaged with one of said one or more female coupling component a flow of air is permitted to pass therethrough between ambient atmosphere and said one of said one or more female coupling component, an amount of said flow being less relative to an unstoppered female coupling component.